THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present for any increase in the domestic air fares of Indian Airlines.

Development of Tourism in Pondicherry

1679. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised the tourism plan for the country ;

(b) whether Government have identified the tourist spots in the Union Territory of Pondicherry with the assistance of the State Government ; and

(c) what is the total amount allocated by Government for the development of tourism in Pondicherry ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The Eighth Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised.

(b) and (c) Development and identification of tourist spots is primarily the responsibility of the Union Territory Administration. However, Central financial assistance is extended on specific proposals based on their merits, availability of funds and interse priorities. This would be decided after the detailed proposals have been received from the U.T. Administration for the year 1992-93.

French Proposal for Development of Airports in the Country

1680. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from France for the modernisation and upgradation of national and international airports in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the names of these airports ; and

(c) the details of assistance proposed to be provided for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Development of Religious Places in Bihar

1681. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that places of pilgrimage of almost all the religions are located in the State of Bihar which can also be developed as potential tourist centres ; and

(b) if so, what action the Central Government have taken to develop the pilgrimage places of Bihar into tourist centres to attract tourists ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Development of Tourist Centres whether religious or otherwise is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Government of India does not on its own undertake development of such places ; However, it assists the State Government in Development of infrastructural facilities on the basis of specific proposals received which are considered on the basis of its merits, inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

Utilisation of Airbus A-320

1682. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the present passenger traffic is less than the number of passengers carried by the Indian Airlines in 1987-88, even though 18 Airbus 320 planes were added to the fleet ;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the utilisation of Airbus 320 is almost half

of the utilisation of old fleet of Airbus 300 and Boeing 737 planes despite availability of engineers and pilots;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the estimated loss being suffered by Government as a result thereof; and

(e) what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The scheduled utilisation of different types of aircraft as per the present schedule of operations is as under:—

Aircraft type	Utilisation (Annual hrs. per aircraft)
A-300	2436
A-320	2514
B-737	2766

Airbus A-320 utilisation is proposed to be gradually increased to the level of 2700 hours by the end of the year.

Multi Crore Media Blitz in TV Network to Boost Tourism

1683. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

DR. SANJAYA SINH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is gearing up itself to launch a multi crore media blitz in foreign newspapers and through foreign T.V. network;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines laid down in this regard; and

(c) to what extent such a step will boost tourist inflow in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism annually runs campaigns in the overseas markets through the print and the electronic media to project India as an attractive destination. Efforts are being made to make it more effective and destination oriented.

Vacant Post of Executive head in Indian Airlines

1684. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 102 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th May, 1992 and state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines is without an executive head;

(b) if so, since when this post is lying vacant;

(c) what are the reasons for not identifying a suitable person for the said post; and

(d) what steps have been taken so far to fill up the post?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Indian Airlines is presently held by a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism. Action for selection of Chairman and Managing Director, Indian Airlines is at an advanced stage.

Private Sectors' Participation in Tourism Sector

1685. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to involve the private sector for development of tourism infrastructure during the Eighth Plan period; and